



Eddie A. Perez
Mayor

MAYOR PEREZ THANKS BILL COSBY FOR HIS COMMITMENT AND CARING

---NEWS STATEMENT---

(October 21, 2008)--- Mayor Eddie A. Perez personally thanks Dr. Bill Cosby for inspiring and reinforcing the message that parents must be engaged in the lives of their children.

Mayor Perez says, "This is a revolution of young people who see no limits to realizing their dreams."

On Monday, October 20th, Dr. Cosby addressed a packed audience at Bulkeley High School. The program "Hartford Cares! And So Does Bill Cosby" stressed the importance of education and family.

Dr. Cosby said, "Homework saves your child from being out there where danger is. When are we going to accept that? And why does a mayor have to call on the cops to take your child to your place? That's taking the village a little too far."

The panelists who joined Dr. Cosby on stage emphasized the "It Takes A Village To Raise A Child" theme throughout the evening. They included Mayor Perez; Luis Rodriguez, a Hartford High graduate and current UConn student; Ebony Hass, 11th grade student at Bulkeley High School; Gayle Allen-Greene, Principal at Bulkeley's Upper School; Greg Bartlett, math teacher at Bulkeley; Mayra Esquilin, parent; Dr. Calvin Woodland, President of Capital Community College; and Dr. Steve Perry, Principal at Capital Prep Magnet School. Each also offered their wishes to have parents and students take more personal responsibility in regards to education, family, and community.

Dr. Cosby was in Hartford in July with a similar message. When Hartford enforced the city curfew, Dr. Cosby called Mayor Perez to commend him for getting parents more engaged in the lives of their children and offered to return to Hartford. An electrified audience welcomed his return.

Mayor Perez says, "This event was to empower and inform families. Dr. Cosby did both."

The Aetna, Mayor Perez's Rising Stars For Hartford, and the Patricelli Family Foundation were the underwriters for the program that was hosted by Leadership Greater Hartford and the City of Hartford as a "Hartford Cares" program.